



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 22 2018

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Kenneth Calvert
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Calvert and Murkowski and Ranking Members McCollum and Udall:

Since 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released over 517 thousand square feet of office space nationwide resulting in cumulative annual rent avoidance of nearly \$20 million. The EPA is continuing to invest in reconfiguring workspace to align with current workforce levels and to reduce long-term rent costs consistent with the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016.

Also starting in 2012, the agency began discussing with Congress the future of facilities located in Las Vegas, Nevada. This continued over the next five fiscal years and finally, consistent with the government-wide effort to reduce the federal footprint and the FASTA, the agency decided to reduce our footprint by ending operations for the Office of Administration Resources and Management and the Office of Research and Development in Las Vegas by September 30, 2018. The agency likewise announced in 2015 that it also is reducing our agency-owned space at the Grosse Ile, Michigan facility.

These operations will continue in federally-owned space in other EPA locations and will reduce the EPA's overall operational costs moving forward. Staff affected by these consolidations have been given the option to relocate to another EPA location or separate from the agency, which includes retirement if applicable. For your awareness, additional details follow.

Las Vegas, Nevada

The OARM conducts Human Resources transactional services currently through three HR Shared Service Centers including Las Vegas. The Centers in Cincinnati, Ohio and Research Triangle Park, North Carolina are located in EPA-owned facilities. The Las Vegas, Nevada Center, the smallest of the three, is in leased space. Consistent with the FASTA, a decision was made in February 2018 that the work currently being performed by the HR Shared Service Center in Las Vegas, Nevada should transition to the two EPA-owned locations. This determination will ensure the agency continues to provide service in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

The ORD has had a leasing arrangement with the University of Las Vegas, Nevada for many years, allowing the EPA to rent laboratory and office space on the university campus. In 2014, the UNLV indicated it is not interested in continuing this arrangement. Accordingly, the EPA began making preparation for an alternate location to continue this work in that same year.

The current lease with the UNLV expires on September 30, 2020, but given the long history of laboratory work by the EPA and its predecessors, the EPA needs approximately two years to conduct the required sampling and clean-up activities needed to release the space back to the UNLV and to meet Nuclear Regulatory Commission decommissioning and license requirements.

The important research conducted at the Las Vegas location will continue at the agency's laboratories in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Additionally, laboratory facilities in Colorado will ensure that the EPA meets the requirement of Section 104(e) of the Clean Water Act, which states that the EPA must have laboratory facilities in the southwestern area of the United States near institutions of higher learning.

The EPA's HR staff of 17 employees have been offered paid relocation to equivalent positions at the EPA's Headquarters, Cincinnati or Research Triangle Park offices. Likewise, the agency's Research Personnel staff of 32 have been offered paid relocation to equivalent positions at Cincinnati, Ohio, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, Athens, Georgia or other ORD locations. The EPA also received approval by the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Management and Budget of a Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment package, funded from the FY 2017 Environmental Programs and Management Appropriations Account.

Grosse Ile Facility

The EPA has a long history of discussions on the proper utilization of agency-owned space at the Grosse Ile, Michigan Large Lakes Research Station. The LLRS research mission has evolved from bench laboratory work supporting mercury and trace metal projects to sophisticated computer modeling and forecasting. The bench laboratory work ceased in 2010 with the sun-setting of the mercury and trace metal analysis. The ORD announced it would vacate this facility in 2015 and completed the process in 2017.

Currently, there are 17 employees located at the LLRS. Region 5 has a total of 15 employees and the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance has two employees at that location. The EPA plans for all remaining LLRS personnel be co-located at the EPA Ann Arbor facility which is 41 miles away.

We appreciate your continued support of these important priority areas. If you have further questions, please contact Ed Walsh at (202) 564-4594.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly Greaves". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Holly" and last name "Greaves" clearly distinguishable.

Holly W. Greaves
Chief Financial Officer

